might be. He then dilated on the advantages and the disadvantages to be derived from the separation of the Devaswoms from the Land Revenue department. If it was decided to separate the Devaswoms, the lands belonging to the Devaswoms should be shown separately from Sirkar lands, and their management entrusted to caste-Hindu Committees which should be appointed in every taluk. The supervision and control of those Committees should vest in a Central Committee composed of Members with sound knowledge of *Tantric* and Devaswom matters.

125. Undesirability of introducing reforms in the administration of Devaswoms on non-tantric lines.

Mr. Chingan Narayanan Bhattatiri (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) represented that the system followed in revising the *pathivus* of the Devaswoms was in contravention of the rules laid down in the Hindu religious works bearing on the subject, immemorial custom and *Kshetracharam*. He emphasised the need for consultation with the Tantries in fixing the *pathivus* of the Devaswoms, as such a procedure would avoid confusion and unnecessary correspondence. The Member requested that the following defects might also be remedied in the revision of the *pathivus* of Devaswoms:—

1. that the quantities of articles for *Nityanidanom* and other ceremonies such as paddy, etc., fixed in the old *pathivu* accounts should, on no account, be reduced; and

2. that, wherever possible, the articles should be supplied in kind, and that market rates should be allowed to those supplied otherwise.

The Member also complained of the great delay in the performance of *poojas*, etc., on account of local officers being obliged to wait for the orders of Government for the performance of such unforeseen ceremonies as *Suddhi*, and requested that suitable arrangements might be made so that pollution might be removed at once and the *poojas* conducted without delay.

The Member next referred to the system of appointing *Santhikars* on production of qualification and character certificates and said that it should be put a stop to and that the *Tantri* should have a voice in their selection. He suggested the extension of committees composed of the Tantries and the Ooranmakars of each locality, for remedying the above defects and for submitting proposals in connection with the revision of Devaswom *pathivus*.

Dewan's reply (to Subjects Nos. 122 to 125).—The report of the Devaswom Separation Committee was received just a day or two before the commencement of the Assembly. As soon as the Assembly is over, the request to publish the report as well as Mr. Ramachandra Rao's report will be considered.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS.

126. Necessity for redressing certain grievances of the ryots of the Agastisvaram taluk.

Mr. Eswara Pillai Chitraputra Pillai (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) stated that, unlike Kuttanad, the profitable cultivation of paddy lands in Nanjanad depended, in a great measure, upon the free and unstinted application of artificial manures, particularly of sheep and goat manure. Ten years ago when the area under cultivation was 23,000 acres, there were 50,000 heads of sheep and goats in the taluk. But now when the cultivated area had increased to 65,000 acres, goats and sheep had decreased in number to 5,000, the lands yielding poor results in consequence. The Member ascribed the fall in the number of sheep and goats to their sale by owners for want of facilities for grazing, the concession of grazing in the adjoining Thekkumala reserve being restricted to sheep and that only on payment of a fee of one anna per head. He added that the Thekkumala reserve did not serve any forest purpose, as it neither contained any tree-growth worth mentioning nor held out any possibility of the future growing of trees. The only return for the amount

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